

276/#12 1-21-00 PATENT 2091-145P

Columbia Rolling

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## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Kazuo SHIOTA et al.

Appl. No.:

08/979,567

Group:

2761

Filed:

November 26, 1997

Examiner: G. MORGAN

For:

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## LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

January 14, 2000

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

Appl. No.	<u>Filing Date</u>	Group
09/256,367	February 24, 1999	2712
08/970,394	November 14, 1997	2712
08/974,888	November 20, 1997	2722
08/979,111	November 26, 1997	2723
09/219,121	December 23, 1998	2712
09/219,451	December 23, 1998	2712

Appl. No. 08/979,567

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Ву

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